

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8252

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 5041

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, KN, JA

SUBJ: KIM IL-SUNG INTERVIEW WITH JAPANESE MAGAZINE EDITOR

SUMMARY: AN APPARENTLY HEALTHY KIM IL-SUNG HAS GIVEN INTERVIEW TO EDITOR OF LEFTIST JAPANESE JOURNAL, ACCORDING TO NEWSPAPER REPORT. KIM IS SAID TO HAVE REPEATED STANDARD CONDITIONS FOR IMPROVED DPRK-JAPAN RELATIONS. HE AGAIN DANGLED PROSPECT OF FISHERIES AGREEMENT AND ALSO HINTED AT POSSIBILITY OF TOKYO-PYONGYANG AIR LINK. END SUMMARY.

1. APRIL 6 ASAHI REPORTS HIGH POINTS OF INTERVIEW GRANTED BY KIM IL-SUNG TO EDITOR OF LEFTIST JAPANESE MAGAZINE "SEKAI." KIM REPORTEDLY REPEATED STANDARD DEMAND THAT JAPAN MUST DEPART FROM "AMERICA'S DIVISION-PERPETUATION LINE" BEFORE ANY IMPROVEMENT IN DPRK-JAPAN RELATIONS IS POSSIBLE. HE DENOUNCED CROSS-RECOGNITION FORMULA AND IS QUOTED AS SAYING IT "USLESS FOR DPRK TO PROPOSE IMPROVEMENT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS TO GOJ WHEN THE TIME IS NOT RIPE YET."

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2. AS BAIT, KIM REPORTEDLY DANGLED PROSPECT OF PRIVATE FISHERIES AGREEMENT AND TOKYO-PYONGYANG AIR SERVICE. HOWEVER, KIM'S LINE ON FISHING QUESTION APPEARS UNCHANGED FROM THAT GIVEN JSP DIETMEN KANEMATSU AND YONEDA BY KIM SHORTLY AFTER SHOSEI MARU INCIDENT LAST AUTUMN, NAMELY THAT GOJ "MUST GUARANTEE" PRIVATE FISHERIES AGREEMENT. ACCORDING TO FONOFF EXPERHAKENDO), KIM'S REPORTED REMARK THAT TOKYO-PYONGYANG AIR LINK WILL BE POSSIBLE IN FUTURE IS REFERENCE TO PAKISTAN INTERNATIONAL AIRLINES (PIA) PROPOSAL TO START KARACHI-PEKING-PYONGYANG-TOKYO SERVICE. ENDO SAYS PAKISTAN EMBASSY APPROACHED GOJ ON PIA'S BEHALF LAST FALL AND WAS TOLD SCHEME IMPOSSIBLE FOR PRESENT SINCE THERE ARE NO AIR CONTROL ARRANGMENTS FOR DPRK-JAPAN FLIGHTS.

3. SEKAI EDITOR, RYOSUKE YASUE, WAS INTERVIEWED BY ASAHI CORRESPONDENT IN PEKING AFMA EXIT FROM PYONGYANG. YASUE SAID HE ATE AT SAME TALBLE WITH KIM, AND THAT KIM APPEARED TO ENEN GOOD HEALTH. EMBASSY WILL TRANSLATE SEKAI ARTICLE WHEN IT IS AVAILABLE AND REPORT AS APPROPRIATE.

HODGSON

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